

STATE OF LOUISIANA
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN
CONTINUING PLANNING PROCESS
2004

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The Louisiana Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP or The Plan) is the primary document associated with water quality management, pollution control, and planning activities carried out by the State in its effort to implement the provisions of federal law under the Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987. The Plan was developed in accordance with Sections 205(j), 208 and 303(e) of the CWA. The main objective of the CWA is to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.” The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is authorized to develop the WQMP and to carry out such activities according to the Louisiana Water Quality Regulations (LA R.C.33:IX), developed under the authority and mandate of the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act (LA R.S.30:2001 and 30:2071). The WQMP goal is that the waters of the State meet established water quality standards, and thereby maintain all designated uses for each waterbody.

The WQMP identifies water quality problems, details the State’s objectives and strategies for their resolution, and outlines the institutional framework necessary for the effective implementation of the proposed strategies. In order to meet these objectives, the WQMP must contain the detail required for providing the necessary analyses and information for management decisions, while remaining flexible enough to meet changing requirements. The Plan is, therefore, a management tool containing a wide range of information that is integrated in an assessment of both the sources and impacts of water pollution, as well as the possible management alternatives available for resolution of the problems.

The Louisiana WQMP is developed through the Continuing Planning Process (CPP) that requires the compilation of information and preparation of documents instrumental to the effective execution of the State’s water quality programs. The WQMP consists of several documents or volumes and describe legislative authorizations and regulations, program procedures and plan, water quality conditions and data assessments, municipal waste treatment plan, and total maximum daily loads and wasteload allocations. Thus, the Louisiana WQMP consists of a number of documents and each is considered a volume of the Plan. Each document or volume is developed separately but contains some information used in other documents within the Plan for consistency and continuity. Each individual volume of the Plan presents information and/or data integral to the overall management and planning process. The CPP is considered Volume 1 of the WQMP.